

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 07114 232232Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 OMB-01

DRC-01 /136 W

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R 232215Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8194

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: CORDOBA AUTOMOBILE WORKERS STRIKE

1. MINLABOR, NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION (SMATA) AND IKA-RENAULT ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT SEPT 21 DESIGNED TO END LABOR CONFLICT WHICH THREATENS CLOSURE ALL AUTOMOTIVE COMPANIES. COMPANY AGREED GRANT WORKERS ALL ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS DEMANDED, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, FOOD, DAILY EFFORT, SENIORITY AND UNSANITARY WORKING CONDITIONS BONUSES. AN UNSPECIFIED SALARY INCREASE, DEPENDING ON SENIORITY, WILL ALSO BE AUTHORIZED AND WORKERS WILL BE GRANTED 500 PESOS SALARY ADVANCE 48 HOURS AFTER WORKERS RESUME NORMAL PRODUCTIVITY. PROPOSED SETTLEMENT EFFECTIVELY UNDERCUTS POSITION EXPELLED LOCAL UNION LEADERSHIP WHICH COULD NOT BE REINSTATED UNDER PROPOSAL. EXPELLED CORDOBA SMATA SECGEN SALAMANCA REACTED BY URGING WORKERS TO "REFUSE TO BARGAIN UNION LEADERSHIP FOR SALARY INCREASES". HE CALLED MASS WORKERS' MEETING FOR 4 PM SEPT 23, AT WHICH HE WILL URGE PROPOSAL BE REJECTED UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY REINSTATEMENT EXPELLED LEADERSHIP.

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2. IN OTHER STRIKE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, TUCUMAN SUGAR WORKERS FEDERATION (FOTIA) HAS EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN ALL PROVINCIAL SUGAR MILLS IN PROTEST GOA SEPT 13 INTERVENTION OF UNION. INTERVENTION FOLLOWED FOTIA TWO-DAY STRIKE IN SUPPORT DEMANDS FOR SALARY INCREASES AND OPPOSITION TO USE OF MECHANIZED HARVESTERS WHICH WERE ALLEGEDLY CREATING UNEMPLOYMENT. INTERVENTION TOOK PLACE DAY RAIMUNDO ONGARO-LED COMBATIVE COORDINATING PLENARY WAS TO BE HELD AT FOTIA HEADQUARTERS. STRIKE HAS ENGENDERED CLASHES BETWEEN WORKERS AND POLICE, RESULTING IN ARRESTS AND INJURIES. ADDITIONALLY, STRIKE THREATENS LOSS OF SUGAR CROP WHICH IS IMPORTANT PRODUCER FOREIGN CURRENCY INCOME. NEGOTIATIONS ARE PRESENTLY STALEMATED.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH MAJORITY IKA-RENAULT WORKERS LIKELY TO FAVOR SETTLEMENT AS PROPOSED, A NUMBER SUFFICIENT TO CREATE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLY DISRUPT SETTLEMENT ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT SALAMANCA. THEREFORE, IT UNLIKELY THAT IKA-RENAULT'S LABOR PROBLEMS ARE OVER.
HILL

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